



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26, 1898.

There were nineteen persons present with President Brown in the chair.

In accordance with notice given at the preceding meeting, the amendment to the Constitution proposed in December was called up and passed, changing the limit of associate editors of the BULLETIN to seven instead of five.

Mr. Marshall A. Howe was elected associate editor.

An invitation from Prof. F. E. Lloyd to meet at Teachers College on the first session in March was referred to the Committee on Program with power.

The first paper, "New Sapindaceae from South America," was by Dr. Radlkofer, of Munich, and presented by Prof. Burgess. It contained descriptions of species of *Urvillea*, *Serjania* and *Paulinia*, soon to be printed in the BULLETIN. Their type specimens were exhibited, forming part of a collection made by Dr. Rusby in South America.

The second paper, by Dr. J. K. Small, "The genus *Bumelia* in the Southern States," described the distinctive characters of thirteen species, five of which had been before recognized.

Discussion on specific limitation followed, President Brown, Dr. Britton, Dr. T. F. Allen, Dr. Small, Dr. Underwood, Prof. Lloyd and the Secretary participating.

Dr. Britton spoke of cultivation in the Botanical Garden at Bronx Park, as having already settled some questions of specific limits. Mr. Nash has in this way proved *Potentilla Canadensis* and *P. simplex* to be distinct, also the European *Pyrola rotundifolia* and the American species long known under this name.

The third paper was by Dr. N. L. Britton, "Remarks on some species of *Senecio*," with exhibition and discussion of illustrative specimens, and of several new species, soon to be printed. One species from White Sulphur Springs is one of three plants on

Kate's Mountain which find their nearest relatives on the Rockies 1500 miles distant.

Discussion followed on the respective value to be assigned to different characters. Dr. Britton held that absence of rays is an uncertain distinction in *Senecio* and that involucral characters are more permanent. The Secretary remarked on the failure of acheneal characters in *Aster*, and Dr. Britton upon the same in *Helianthus*.

Prof. Lloyd remarking that *a priori* we should expect to find greatest variation in organs like leaves which are in direct contact with their environment, Dr. Britton said that though leaves vary much in form, they vary but little in assimilation-tissue, their special character.

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, 1898.

Twenty-seven persons were present, President Brown in the chair.

The program was devoted to the Asclepiadaceae or milkweed family.

The first paper was by Dr. H. H. Rusby, describing "A new Genus of Asclepiadaceae from Bolivia." Dr. Rusby discussed the tribal and generic characters of that family, and exhibited specimens of his new genus, which is a vine of vigorous growth and of peculiar pollinial position.

The second paper, by Miss Anna M. Vail, described a new species of *Acerates*, or green-milkweed, with comparisons of the other species already known. Specimens and illustrations were exhibited, with remarks upon the history of the genus from its earliest species, *A. Floridana*, onward. As distinctive characters of *Acerates*, she mentioned its aspect, its form of hood and its lack of strong horn-like characters. The characteristics were further discussed by Dr. Edward L. Greene, who was present from Washington, and who emphasized the importance of its axillary subsessile umbels and the green color in its flowers.

The varieties of *Acerates viridiflora* were then discussed, especially with reference to their great difference in leaf-form. Miss Vail finds their flowers to be identical. Mr. Rydberg re-

ported finding all four of these forms within one county of central Nebraska on the sandhills, but to the east the broader-leaf only, and in Western Nebraska a narrow-leaf variety only.

General discussion on the Asclepiadaceae followed, participated in by Prof. Greene, Dr. Britton, Dr. Rusby and others. Miss Vail, in answer to inquiries, indicated the difficulties in the way of regarding the horn in that genus as a midrib. It is very variable, often double, differs in character from the still persistent midrib of the same hood, and in many western species is replaced by a broad triangular lamina.

Miss Vail described her results when watching plants of *Asclepias Cornuti* last summer. Bees and many small insects directed themselves at once to the glutinous top of the anther-column. They seemed to neglect the corona, and but little secretion was apparent in it, instead of the copious deposits of honey expected.

Prof. Greene queried if the corona in this family might not prove to be the true corolla, and cited the Malvaceae as similar in adhesion of the corolla to the stamen-tube. He said, I would exclude from *Asclepias* every species which does not develop a terminal umbel. The only invariable character by which I would distinguish *Asclepias* and related genera is found in the anther-wing. The first index to a new genus is its aspect. It is the part of the systematic botanist to define, if possible, what the significant elements of this habit or aspect are. Habit is often strongly marked even where clearly accented characters are difficult to find. It is a nice genus which has both habit and clear characters.

Dr. Britton followed with description and exhibition of a new salt marsh *Scirpus*, or bulrush, from Connecticut, related to *S. robustus* of Pursh, but with different inflorescence and achene.

Dr. Britton also presented specimens of *Triosteum angustifolium* from Stratford, Conn., its previously-known stations northeast of Pennsylvania being only at New Brunswick, N. J., and Glen Cove, L. I. A large supply of roots from Stratford are now planted at the Botanical Garden to exhibit development.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23, 1898.

This meeting was held in the large lecture hall of the College

of Pharmacy and about 150 persons were present, with Vice-President Rusby in the chair.

Arrangements were announced for summer courses in Botany, provided by the Committee of Instruction of the club. Course 1 to commence March 4, at the College of Pharmacy under Mr. W. A. Bastedo, with weekly lectures and excursions on Saturdays.

Pursuant to motion of Dr. Britton, the Chairman made this evening the announcement of the Field Committee for the year 1898, to consist of three members, with power to add to their number. The committee was announced to consist of Mr. W. N. Clute, Chairman, Prof. F. E. Lloyd and Mr. W. A. Bastedo.

The evening was devoted to an illustrated lecture by Mr. Cornelius Van Brunt on the wild flowers of the Canadian Rockies, with lantern slides exquisitely colored from nature by Mrs. Van Brunt. Numerous views of the scenery of their surroundings were shown, especially of the Selkirk mountains and about Banff. Here instead of *Rudbeckia* and *Leucanthemum*, *Gaillardia aristata* covers the fields with multitudes of purple and yellow flowers. Vetches are numerous; blue clover (lucerne) takes the place of red; turf for the lawns is composed of buffalo clover only (*Trifolium reflexum*). Beautiful examples of *Hedysarum*, *Lathyrus* and *Oxytropis* occur, among the Leguminosae, *Linnaea borealis*, *Potentilla fruticosa* and several species of *Allium* were abundant, also *Parnassia palustris* and *P. fimbriata*. Near the hotel at Banff great numbers of *Shepherdia* bushes are hung with their red berries. The red berry-like fruit of the strawberry-blite, *Chenopodium capitatum*, was seen in great abundance in parts of the Canadian National Park, as was *Galium boreale*, *Anaphalis margaritacea* and several species of *Gentiana* and *Pedicularis*. The asters were represented by *A. Fremonti*; instead of the dandelion, *Troximon*, with similar blossoms, had become the most common flower; myriads of hare-bells, apparently *Campanula rotundifolia*, dotted the roadsides, and the horse if left to himself would hunt them out as the choicest eating. One field was a beautiful mass of squirrel-grass, *Hordeum jubatum*; larkspurs grew all along the road; blue flax (*Linum perenne*) and *Rosa acicularis Bourgeana* were still in blossom. About the numerous hot springs and ponds formed from them grew plants of warmer latitudes, here blooming early, as

Gentiana detonsa in July. *Lobelia Kalmii* was blooming in the hot water. Many parts of this park have lost their beauty from the continuous forest fires. The Canadian Pacific Railroad employs watchmen whose sole duty is to guard against these fires. Digging shows that such fires have ravaged this region since times before history. The blackened ground is slowly covered by fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), and, after the charred trees have fallen, by vigorous young growth of balsam spruce and pine. The abundant painted-cup disputes with the fireweed the position of the most showy flower of the region. An interesting visit to Lake Louise and neighboring glaciers was described, also to Mirror Lake, with altitude of 6480 feet. Great numbers of crossbills were met near the glacier, feeding upon pine-cones; three columbines, *Aquilegia*, were close to the snows, with *Ledum latifolium*, *Penstemon Menziesii*, *Valeriana Sitkensis* and *Arnica cordifolia*. *Habenaria hyperborea* was everywhere through the woods. The moss-campion, *Silene acaulis*, covered dry rocks, with long tap-root going down three feet or more to water. Strangely enough, the night-flowering catch-fly, *Silene noctiflora*, was here in force. *Bryanthus* and *Cassiopea* were in fine flower. Lyell's larch grew higher up the mountains than any evergreen, and its bright green was already turning now in August to its autumn yellow.

After thanks to Mr. Van Brunt for these results of his summer in the Rockies, the club adjourned.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.